

I am confident he will completely exemplify the Rotary motto. I join Rotarians throughout the world in congratulating Mr. King on the presidency and wishing him every success.

HONORING MAJOR CHARLES  
"CHUCK" MONGES

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Major Charles "Chuck" Monges. Major Monges died of a massive heart attack at the age of 79 on July 24, 2001, in Fresno, CA.

Major Monges joined the United States Marines Corps after graduating from high school in 1940. He served for nine years during and after World War II, earning the rank of Sergeant. In 1952, Monges joined the United States Army where he served in the Korean War. After eleven years with the Army, he retired with the rank of Major.

Major Monges earned several distinguished awards for his service in the United States Military. During intense combat in World War II, Major Monges risked his own life by dragging a wounded soldier from the battlefield to safety. After his platoon came to his aid, they managed to annihilate the enemy. This extraordinary bravery earned him the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart.

In the Korean War, Major Monges earned the Bronze Star and the Soldier's Medal for Bravery. Again, he dragged wounded soldiers away from a dangerous area, even though his own life was in danger. Once they were in a safe location, Monges proceeded to treat the wounds of the injured soldiers. Monges' actions during combat defined him as a true American hero.

After his retirement from the military in 1963, Major Monges began his charge to establish a national museum to honor members of the Legion of Valor. The Legion of Valor was established in 1890 to honor recipients of the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, the Air Force Cross, and the Distinguished Service Cross. With help from other veterans and the Fresno City Council, Major Monges' dream became reality in 1991. The 10,000 square foot Legion of Valor Museum was put together by a staff of volunteers and is one of the most unique and inspiring military museums in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and life of Major Chuck Monges. I wish to send my condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING THOMAS L. BERKLEY

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2001*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas L. Berkley for his contributions to the community and to the Nation.

Mr. Berkley was born in Illinois in 1915. At the age of four, he and his family moved to Southern California. In 1936, he attended Ful-

lerton Junior College, where he would later earn an Associate of Arts Degree. He went on to UCLA and completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and Finance. Mr. Berkley was accepted into Hastings Law School in the San Francisco Bay Area, and became active in the NAACP. He received his Juris Doctor in 1942 and was admitted to the California State Bar a year later.

After finishing his academic career, Mr. Berkley proudly joined the United States Army. He fought bravely in World War II and achieved the rank of Second Lieutenant.

At the end of the war, Mr. Berkley came back to Oakland and became the head of one of the Nation's largest integrated, bilingual law firms. He helped establish the careers of notable men such as Judge Clinton White and Allen Broussard, and former Mayors of Oakland, Elihu Harris and Lionel Wilson.

Mr. Berkley was not only active in law, but also active in business and in the media. He was the president of Berkley International Ltd., Berkley Technical Services and CEO of Berkley Financial Services. Mr. Berkley also was the publisher of the Alameda Publishing Corporation, which publishes the Oakland, San Francisco, and Richmond Post newspapers.

Mr. Berkley is a visionary and a motivator. He helped turn the Port of Oakland to a world-class facility. He saw the need for guidance to our children, so he served as a director for the Oakland Unified School District. He saw the need for social and economic improvement in some of Oakland's neighborhoods, so he became an advisor to the Greater Acorn Community Improvement Association.

Mr. Berkley has led a tireless and committed crusade to better our society. He not only helped spur business development, but he also helped individuals achieve their goals and dreams.

I am honored to salute and take great pride in celebrating with his family, friends and colleagues the distinguished accomplishments of Thomas L. Berkley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2001*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber when roll call votes number 257, 258, and 259 were cast. I want the record to show that had I been present in this chamber at the time these votes were cast, I would have voted "yes" on roll call vote number 257, "yes" on roll call vote 258, "yes" on roll call vote 259.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CENTRAL ASIA  
A DECADE AFTER INDEPENDENCE

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2001*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as we head into our August recess, we should recall that almost ten years have passed since a group of conspirators attempted to topple

Soviet President Gorbachev. The failure of that putsch precipitated declarations of independence by numerous Soviet republics, including those in Central Asia, and led several months later to the formal dissolution of the USSR. Today, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan remain independent, a definite plus. But in other respects, we have witnessed regression from levels reached at the end of the Soviet era, when Gorbachev's programs of glasnost and perestroika mandated a certain level of tolerance for opposing viewpoints and organized opposition activity.

Specifically, with respect to democratization, human rights and the rule of law, overall trends in the region are extremely discouraging. In 1992, these countries unreservedly accepted the commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). But despite the carefully crafted claims of Central Asian leaders and their spokesmen, in the region and in Washington, the trend is toward consolidation of authoritarian control and increased repression, not gradual democratization. The Helsinki Commission, which I have chaired and now co-chair, has held three hearings on Central Asia since 1999. Partly on the basis of testimony during those hearings, I introduced H. Con. Res. 397, which expressed the Congress' concern about the lack of democratization and violations of fundamental human rights throughout Central Asia. The measure was passed last November by an overwhelming majority (362-3) of the House.

In floor statements introducing the resolution, I argued that the main cause of authoritarian government and repression in Central Asia was the determination of the region's leaders to perpetuate themselves in power by any means necessary. This desire, in turn, is fueled by their corruption, which they strive to conceal from their impoverished publics. The pattern is infuriating: rulers enrich themselves, their families and favored few, while the rest of the population struggles to eke out a miserable existence. In turn, the authoritarian leaders suppress freedom of the press and the right to engage in political activity. Dissidents are harassed and jailed. Human rights defenders are tortured while being held in incommunicado detention.

Indeed, one of the greatest challenges facing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is the emergence in Central Asia of an entire region where basic OSCE principles and commitments are ignored—in fact, flouted, with increasing brazenness. Turkmenistan's President Niyazov made himself virtual president for life in December 1999. Kazakhstan's President Nazarbaev—who has extended his tenure in office through referenda, canceling elections, and staging deeply flawed elections—last summer arranged to receive lifelong privileges and perks. In Kyrgyzstan, President Akaev, who was once considered democracy's best hope, has already rigged two elections in order to keep serious contenders from running against him. He is now reportedly planning to stage a referendum on extending his tenure in office from five years to seven. Welcome to the club, President Akaev. I continue to suspect that some of these leaders who already head what are, for all intents and purposes, royal families are planning to establish family dynasties.